

# Cleveland's Veteran First Baseman May Be Seen With Nationals If Deal Succeeds

## GEORGE STOVALL MAY COME HERE

Charlie Somers May Accept Offer for Veteran First Baseman and Season May Find Him Guarding Cushion at Florida Avenue—Griff in Chicago.

By "SENATOR."

That George Stovall, the former Cleveland manager, may be a member of the Washington club within the next couple of days is a report coming from Chicago, where the owners of the American League are gathering for a meeting.

Before leaving home for Chicago, President Somers, of the Naps, said that he had under advisement offers from four clubs for the services of the big first baseman, and the opinion is that Washington is among the teams that have made propositions.

It is an open secret that Clark Griffith is most anxious to land a man for first base who has enough ability, both as a fielder and as a hitter, to insure a strengthening of the first corner in the infield.

Stovall has written the Cleveland officials expressing his willingness to try hard under the management of Harry Davis, but when it is recalled that Stovall was very indignant when Davis was named as his successor, the Naps are willing to part with the player if any other club makes an attractive offer.

In Lonely Majesty.

Miss Lina Lindig, secretary to the manager, is today sole guardian of the headquarters of the Washington club, while Clark Griffith is in Chicago mingling with magnates, hoping to be able to put through some sort of a deal that might strengthen the Nationals.

"I had not intended attending the meeting in Chicago, but when I reconsidered I thought that there might be something doing, so I decided to go," Griffith said before leaving here yesterday.

"I haven't any deals figured out, but am open to any sort of a proposition that might help us out. You know it's pretty late now, and nothing may happen, but I will be on the job, sort of hoping against hope."

Start This Week.

The shortness of time remaining before the call of the diamond will be abroad in the land is indicated by the fact that before the dawn of another week the invasion of the Southland will be under way, with the New York Nationals as the vanguard. Within three weeks every one of the sixteen major league clubs will have pitched their training camps, and the work of preparation will be on in earnest. The seasons for the championships open two months from last Saturday.

One of the deals that will appeal especially to followers of the National League and which may be consummated at the league meeting in New York tomorrow is the proposed transfer of "Three Finger" Brown from Chicago to Philadelphia. Horace Fogel and Charles Murphy, the executive managers, are said to have reached an agreement

## REMNAS IS GREAT PITCHER ACCORDING TO JIM M'GUIRE

Cleveland Would Gladly Have Taken the Butte Boy.

"Deacon Jim" McGuire, who will act as tutor to the Tiger pitchers and catchers down South this spring, says that Detroit has a future great in Alexander Remenas, the big right-hander, from Butte, Mont.

"If you hadn't grabbed this big boy Cleveland would take him South this spring instead of Detroit," McGuire told Frank Navin. "I went out and looked him over. By George, there's one great pitcher and just the boy for Cleveland," I said, but when I interviewed the club owners, they told me that Detroit had already secured him.

"Remenas has a wide, free movement. He stands nearly six feet two inches and weighs about 185 pounds. He has a world of speed, and his good right arm is sure to hurl them across the plate in the American League this year."

## Del Howard Retires To Pursue Farming

Del Howard, who at times covered left field for the Boston National team, has quit the game. He has purchased a farm in Oregon and says that from now on he will devote his time to farming and will let baseball take care of itself.

## Taking to Golf.

Many ball players are taking to golf in the off season as a means of keeping in good physical condition. Johnny McGraw and Connie Mack, constant little tourneys among their men during the spring training exercises, a custom which may spread to other teams.

## Tomorrow's Sports

Willie Hoppe in exhibition billiard match at Leader Rooms.

Schedule meeting of directors of National League, New York.

Opening of third annual automobile show at Grand Rapids, Mich.

Annual tournament of Nebraska State Checker Association opens at Omaha.

George Chip vs. Walter Coffey, 10 rounds, at Rochester, N. Y.

Dick Nelson vs. Jimmy Moriarity, 12 rounds, at Holyoke, Mass.

## Ira Thomas Showing Two Ways of Signaling Pitchers



## FRANK DILLON HAS WON FAME IN WEST AS EXPERT GOLFER

Takes Longer Stroke Than While Playing Baseball.

Frank Dillon, who played first base for the Detroit baseball club in the days when George Vanderbeek was in charge and has in recent years captained the Los Angeles club, has become an expert golfer.

"I had a harder game than a person would imagine just by looking at it," said Dillon, when asked his views regarding the Scottish national pastime. "It took me some time to get on to the hang of it."

"Experienced golfers found fault with my stroke. In baseball I use a choppy stroke, and this made me make appear funny. I have lengthened it, however, and the fans may not be surprised to see me using that kind of a swing at the ball this season. I certainly would use it if a baseball would travel as far as a golf ball."

"I placed the ball on a tee and then started swinging. I was at a disadvantage because of my height. You see, the ball was farther away from me than for a number of the other players, and consequently harder to hit. I did not curve the ball to see that it did not curve. I just managed to scrape the top, and it rolled along for a few yards. After a while I got the hang of the thing, and could hit for many yards."

"My chief trouble was that I would put the ball too far to either right or left field. It would never stay in a straight line for the hole."

"My first few days on the diamond, I mean the links, confused me. When I would see the ball come instinctively I would raise my hands. It is a lucky thing for me that I did not catch one of the balls, for they whizz through the air at a great rate."

Dillon believes that golf is fine exercise for a baseball player. The walking—San Gabriel's links are three and one-half miles—does an athlete good, he says.

## North Carolina Will Make Northern Trip

North Carolina's varsity line will make a Northern trip this spring, meeting Virginia, Navy, Georgetown, Princeton, and West Point before returning to Chapel Hill. Four contests with Virginia mark the schedule, which is as follows:

March 15—Oak Ridge at Chapel Hill.

March 21—Lafayette at Chapel Hill.

March 25—Wake Forest at Fayetteville.

March 27—Swathmore at Chapel Hill.

March 28—Swathmore at Chapel Hill.

March 30—Davidson at Charlotte.

April 1—Amherst at Chapel Hill.

April 1—Randolph-Macon at Chapel Hill.

April 8—Winston League at Winston.

April 10—Davidson at Chapel Hill.

April 12—Virginia at Greensboro.

April 15—Virginia at Charlotte.

April 18—Virginia at Charlottesville.

April 20—Navy at Annapolis.

April 22—Georgetown at Washington, D. C.

April 23—Princeton at Princeton, N. J.

April 24—Army at West Point, New York.

April 27—Guilford at Chapel Hill.

April 30—Georgia at Chapel Hill.

May 3—V. P. I. at Chapel Hill.

## BOB THAYER'S SPORTING GOSSIP

"EVERY KNOCK IS A BOOST."

Willie Hoppe is here.

Clark Griffith is in Chicago today, looking in on Boss Ban B. and getting a line on business to be carried on at the schedule meeting of the league. Capital fans can leave it to Griffith not to be left behind in any deals possible for the strengthening of the Nationals, but from where I am sitting, the manager will return empty-handed.

Mike Murphy recovering.

Today and tomorrow are big days for the billiardists of Washington. Willie Hoppe's appearance here a year ago drew large crowds, and the young champion's successes are likely to be repeated at the Leader, on Fourteenth street, during the next forty-eight hours.

Dixieland is calling.

Washington amateur baseball enthusiasts are interested in the meeting of the rules committee of the amateur commission which will be held some day this week. The work of revising the code has been practically completed, and all that is now needed is ratification of the alterations the committee-men have decided upon.

Griffith in Chicago.

Wilbert Robinson, the old-time Baltimore backstop, is being credited with making a winning pitcher of Rube Marquard, the Giants' crack southpaw. In his prime Robinson was a brawny, hard-working catcher, and since his joining the Giants a coach, he has been of wonderful service to the young pitchers under McGraw.

Midget races are the best.

It was unfortunate for Cooke, Virginia's crack miler, that he lost a victory Saturday night at Convention Hall. His great form in the 1,000-yard event was noticed by all, and he was hoped to take first place in the half-mile. He made his sprint too soon, however, and was just noised out by George Law, who, by the way, ran a heady race.

Hilltop relay men back.

Carl Morris is to meet Jim Stewart in an elimination bout among the "white hopes." Stewart is not much of a boxer. He carries a good punch, particularly in his right hand, but he is far from championship caliber. Morris has yet to defeat a good man, and until he does, the boxing fans of the country will refuse to consider him as a possibility for the title.

Letter here for Joe Turner, the wrestler.

Bowling Matches On Local Alleys Taking Place This Evening.

District League—Chamber of Commerce vs. Nationals.

Mount Pleasant League—Kenyon vs. Columbia.

Railroad Y. M. C. A. League—Union Station vs. Shops.

District League—Arlington vs. Hummers.

National Capital League—Fat Men vs. Bureau.

Arcade League—Argyle vs. Arcade Market.

Carroll Council League—Columbia vs. Ninas.

Northeastern League—Bills vs. Atlantes.

Commercial League—Tolman Laundry vs. Woodward & Lothrop.

Southern Ry. Clerks' League—Comptrollers vs. Traffic.

Rural Mall Clerks' League—Quads vs. Treys.

Navy Yard League—Erecting Shop vs. Western Gun Carriage Shop.

Westminster League—Reds vs. Whites, Blues vs. Greens.

Remington League—Regals vs. Remotics.

Glaze Offers Field To Callahan's Team

Ralph Glaze, the old Dartmouth athlete and former player for the Red Sox, is coaching for Baylor University baseball candidates. Glaze started his work several weeks ago and he expects a championship team. Glaze has offered his park to the Chicago White Sox this spring.

What Ty Thinks.

"Baseball," says Cobb, "is 50 per cent brain, 25 per cent eye, and 25 per cent arm and leg."

## SQUATTING SLOWS SPEEDY CATCHERS

Nationals' Backstops May Try Experiment of Standing Erect Behind Plate in Order to Keep to Front in Running—Kahoe's Famed Collar Button.

By "SENATOR."

One of the novel experiments to be tried out by the Washington club during its stay at the training camp at Charlottesville will be to reach a decision as to whether the catchers are to squat behind the plate or to stand up in handling the pitchers.

In the opinion of many there is no more antiquated feature in the game today than the plan which forces a backstop to rob himself of most of his speed by assuming an unnatural position on the theory that he can better hide his signals from opposing batters and coaches.

Griffith admits that he has many times discussed the situation, but he is not likely to give his catchers any absolute orders until the season is about to begin. However, two of his trusted advisers at the present time are unalterably opposed to the manner in which the catchers have been doing their work. The pair is Mike Kahoe and Mike Martin.

"It's Dead Wrong."

"I caught enough games while I was in the harness to convince me that this business of squatting down on the haunches to give signals is dead wrong," said Kahoe today. "According to figures, a catcher has to get down between 150 and 200 times a day when he is working, and in the case of double-headers twice that often. The strain is so severe that the legs soon stiffen up and then a man naturally loses all his speed long before his receiving falls off enough to get him out of the league."

"There is absolutely no reason for the squat. In the old days when some batters seemed to think they ought to have about a dozen signals it was somewhat different, but today good catchers are using but two signals to let the pitcher know what he is to pitch. Why these can't be given by a glance, the movement of a hand, or lifting of a foot, or by a dozen other methods, is something I have never understood."

Used Collar Button.

"Once in a minor league when I was crippled, I could not get down but by the use of a collar button in the mouth. It worked perfectly with the pitchers. If I showed the button out it meant a fast ball, and if the pitcher could not see it, it was a curve."

"I am willing to predict right now that the day of the squatting catcher is coming to a speedy end."

Mike Martin has just as decided views of squatting as has the league, but the trainer takes the view purely of the physical disadvantages.

"Just look over the catchers in the two leagues and see how much speed they have left. Of course, some of the young ones can step along at a pretty good clip, but the older ones are slow up that they are practically helpless on the paths. Jim McGuire,

Here's what one of the Pacific coast papers says about catchers. "Why shouldn't a catcher run bases? No reason at all; he should. But of all the flat-footed, Oregon-booted performers of immobility the backstop has it over the proverbial government as a million ways."

## BENZ ALMOST SURE TO GET BERTH ON WHITE SOX CLUB

Goes to Waco Next Week With Jimmy Callahan's Team.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—Joe Benz, of Batesville, Ind., is going to Waco a week from next Thursday night in Manager Callahan's first White Sox squad to begin his fight for a regular place on the South Side pitching staff.

Benz is almost sure to be kept on the Sox team through the regular season. Manager Callahan's ship is not loaded to the guards with pitchers this year, but even if it were Benz would have a good chance of sticking aboard.

The big right hander won the favor of President Comiskey by his showing in that nervous 8 to 7 battle between the Sox and White, who, in his turn, had been hurried to the relief of Jim Scott. The Cubs had a large lead when Benz entered, but he held them at bay and gave the Sox a chance to catch up.

Walsh, Lange, Scott, and White are the only veteran pitchers on the Sox list this year. Benz, Deihl, McGridge, and Peters are the youngsters. It wouldn't be surprising if all three were retained, but if a couple are let go Benz isn't likely to be one of the unfavorites.

Benz is still a young man and hasn't had a great deal of professional experience in defeat a good man, and until he does, the boxing fans of the country will refuse to consider him as a possibility for the title.

Letter here for Joe Turner, the wrestler.

Benz is twenty-two years old and weighs 180. He is a six-footer.

## WORKS DESCRIBES SAM CRAWFORD AS CAPITAL PLAYER

Is Regular in Habits and Should Be Great Performer.

"Sam Crawford is not only a model baseball player, but he is a model man," declares Ralph Works, the Detroit pitcher. "Sam isn't a shirk, neither is he a heller skelter. He isn't lazy, neither is he too ambitious. He isn't a stay-at-home, neither is he a rounder. Sam is one of those fellows who go along at an even tenor, and, barring accidents, he should be just as good a baseball player five or ten years from now as he is at the present time."

"Crawford never does anything to excess. He never talks from the house-tops, yet he is always in the field with a suggestion always worth more than ordinary consideration."

"When I broke up with the Detroit team I was only twenty years old. I looked to Sam Crawford as a model to pattern my life after. And I have never regretted the decision I made then. Sam has never deviated from the course I figured he would follow."

Fans May Fish.

Charles Comiskey says he is thinking of putting an aquarian in his new White Sox park, so that on rainy days the fans will be able to go there to fish. He figures this would keep fans in the ball.

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